

JORDAN TIMES

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جورن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

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Assad: Syria, Jordan coordinate

AMMAN, April 7 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad noted today as calling on the Arab world to put efforts into bolstering the Syrian and Jordanian borders to protect itself from Israel. The daily Al Akhbar reported that he and King Hussein were in constant contact and steps were being taken to coordinate the countries' policies. Their relations, he said, would be affected by their differing stands on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace moves towards Israel. Assad tried to mediate between President Assad and President Sadat.

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Eritreans appeal to Kremlin to stay Ethiopian onslaught

ADDIS ABABA, April 7 (R). Eritrean guerrillas, faced with the prospect of a large-scale Ethiopian attack, today appealed to the Kremlin to press its Ethiopian allies into giving self-termination to the strategic Sea province. The appeal was made in a statement issued by the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) Revolutionary Council (ELF-RC). The background of the appeal is the Ethiopian army's preparations for an all-out offensive against Eritrean guerrillas. A spokesman for the second Eritrean fighting organization, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), said in a statement today his organization believed that Ethiopia -- backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union -- was about to launch a major attack aimed at regaining control of Eritrea. The guerrillas control most of the Eritrean countryside and all but five major cities. They scored a series of spectacular victories against the Ethiopians last year and earlier this year -- when the Ethiopian army was tied down in the war against Somali forces in the Ogaden desert. Since Somalia withdrew regular forces from the Ogaden following a massive Cuban-backed Ethiopian counter-offensive, Eritrean guerrillas have predicted an onslaught on the northern province.



Mr. Mahmud Riad (fourth from left) Secretary General of the Arab League chats to Jordanian officials including Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf and Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (fifth and sixth from left respectively) before leaving Amman airport on Friday for Kuwait. (JNA photo)

Riad in Kuwait promoting Arab summit as Jordanian-Libyan joint communique issued on talks

KUWAIT, April 7 (R). — Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riad arrived here today in the course of an Arab tour aimed primarily at exploring the possibilities of holding an Arab summit conference. Mr. Riad, who flew in from Amman yesterday and met King Hussein, told Al Dustour daily newspaper that the summit -- proposed by Jordan -- "is necessary because of Israeli refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands and its denial of the Palestinian people's rights."

He is expected to seek Kuwait participation in a high-level Arab committee set up by an Arab League meeting in Cairo last month to try to settle Arab differences over Egypt's peace initiative with Israel prior to convening the proposed summit. Mr. Riad, who arrived in Amman yesterday and met King Hussein, told Al Dustour daily newspaper that the summit -- proposed by Jordan -- "is necessary because of Israeli refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands and its denial of the Palestinian people's rights."

Jordan-Libyan statement

AMMAN April 7 (JNA). — An official communique issued in Libya yesterday evening said meetings between Mr. Badran and Libyan officials "were held in a brotherly spirit." The statement said the two sides "condemn the continuous Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, particularly the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon."

Israeli withdrawal plans are inadequate says Kurt Waldheim

UNITED NATIONS, April 7 (R). — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is not satisfied with Israel's plans for a partial withdrawal from Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said today. The spokesman said Mr. Waldheim was pleased plans were being made to begin implementing the withdrawal provisions of a U.N. Security Council resolution.

"However, he does not think that the plans so far submitted are adequate since resolution 423 calls for the total withdrawal forthwith of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory," he added. The spokesman was answering a request for comment from the secretary general, now in London, on an initial withdrawal plan submitted last night by Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur to the chief coordinator of U.N. peace-keeping missions in the Middle East. The plan calls for a two-stage pull-out. On April 11 Israeli troops in southeastern Lebanon would withdraw distances ranging from two to three kms. to about seven kms. On April 14, they would move back some five or six kms. in the central sector. Israel has said it will withdraw entirely once the U.N. interim force in Lebanon, now up to about half of its projected 4,000-man strength, can take over and prevent the return of Arab guerrillas to the area.

the withdrawal after Norwegian officers told reporters in Israel about it. The U.N. spokesman in Jerusalem said the Norwegians were fired on at around midnight and pulled out of the village without retreating. "They had no choice," he added. "As you know, our forces are not heavily armed. They are just armed with light weapons for self defence. So if something happens they cannot cope with it." Palestinians have fired on the U.N. troops at Kaoukaba several times and wounded a Norwegian soldier there yesterday.

More troops Israel's army radio reported yesterday that a Norwegian U.N. unit was forced out of the village of Taibe in south Lebanon by Christian Maronite forces who said the village was not included in plans for deploying U.N. forces. In Oslo it was reported that Norway has decided to send an additional 200 troops to its peace keeping force in southern Lebanon.

Total withdrawal from Arab territory rejected by Begin

JERUSALEM, April 7 (AP). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin said Thursday Israel would not agree to withdraw "almost totally" from occupied Arab territory, ruling out proposals for minor border adjustments in its 1967 lines. Begin's remarks appeared to be in reply to an interview last week in which Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said he would accept small changes in Israel's pre-war borders, bringing Egyptian policy into line with that of the United States. "If we are asked to sign a commitment under which Israel will retreat almost totally to the lines that preceded the six-day war, we must know that this would lead us to endangering our future," Begin said. "It is my duty to say today that we will not sign such a commitment for the sake of our people, its peace and its future," Begin said in accepting an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

slogans against Israel's campaign in southern Lebanon against Palestinian guerrillas. Meanwhile in Cairo President Sadat has stressed that negotiations with Israel should focus on content rather than form, and reiterated Israel must withdraw from all Arab territories and restore Palestinian rights. At a state dinner in honour of visiting Afghan President Mohammad Dawoud Khan Thursday, Sadat repeated his belief that the Palestinian problem was the core of the conflict. "We cannot accept any solution for the problem that is not based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories without exception, and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

EEC seeks to guard against \$ decline

BRUSSELS, April 7 (R). — Members of the nine EEC countries today opened summit talks which could produce joint action to insulate the European community against the dollar's fall. The central theme of their day-long meeting was revival of West's flagging economy in order to fight unemployment, which now stands at six million in the community. The leaders, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, the prime ministers of the eight EEC nations, had before them a proposal from the common market commission intended to shield their currencies from the vagaries of the U.S. dollar. Well placed EEC sources said it seemed likely the summit would endorse such a system. Commission President Roy Jenkins has proposed the nine make greater use of the European unit of account, whose value currently \$1.25 is based on a basket of their currencies, for transactions within the community.

Red Brigades shoot another leading Italian personality

GENOVA, April 7 (R). — The Red Brigades guerrilla gang struck today in their self-proclaimed "civil war" by shooting and wounding an industrialist, northern Italy. Two masked gunmen from brigades, who kidnapped Premier Aldo Moro 22 ago in the most sensational attack of their five-year reign against the state, shot Sig. Felice Schiavetti, 50, an industrial designer and financier, is president of the Genoa industrialists' Association, was lying in a pool of blood after the gunmen fired four bullets into his legs and one into his right hand, police said. A Rome, where offices of the Christian Democratic Party and a police barracks were bombed overnight, leaders of Italy's major parties united rejecting any deal with the brigades for Signor Moro's release. His wife Eleonora, breaking three-week silence on the kidnapping, said in a letter published today that she believed his release could still be secured, but added in the letter to the Milan morning newspaper Il Giorno: "We have no signs to bolster our hope that he will be returned to us." In a message she hoped would reach her husband, Signora Moro wrote: "We want him to know that we are near, that we are living moment by moment with him, every hour of these longest of days, that we are praying with him." The Genoa attack was the second carried out by the Brigades since they kidnapped Signor Moro and killed his five guards in Rome on March 16. They shot and wounded Giovanni Picca, a former Christian Democratic mayor of Turin, two weeks ago. "This is the Red Brigades," said an anonymous caller to local news media within minutes of this morning's shooting. "We have shot Schiavetti. A communique will follow." The attack revealed once again the brigades' ability to strike quickly and with clinical efficiency. Hundreds of police had been hunting all this week for guerrilla "cells" in Genoa, long since a haunt for the extreme leftist brigades. Last night leaders of the Christian Democrats, the Communist Party and the Socialists joined together in reaffirming their refusal to bargain for Signor Moro's life. Echoing the views of Christian Democratic Secretary Benigno Zaccagnini and Socialist chief Bettino Craxi, Communist Party leader Enrico Berlinguer said in a television interview that the state had to make a stand against the guerrillas. Signor Berlinguer said: "The state's firm rejection of any blackmail or submission... is the only way to safeguard the interests of the nation, which must go before everything else." The brigades have said they want the release of communist prisoners in Italian jails but Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti told parliament on Tuesday: "We refuse in the strongest possible terms any acceptance of blackmail."

World News Roundup ...

North Yemeni premier to tour Gulf

SANAA, April 7 (R). — North Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul Aziz al-Hadhrami will start a Gulf tour next Sunday to discuss matters of common interest, official sources said today. The tour will include Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, the sources said. Earlier in Kuwait officials said the main purpose of the tour was to canvas support for North Yemen's five-year development plan.

Atherton becomes U.S. ambassador-at-large

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AP). — The Senate approved Thursday an appointment of veteran diplomat Alfred L. Atherton Jr., who has been President Jimmy Carter's representative in Middle East peace settlement efforts, as U.S. Ambassador-at-large. Atherton has been assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs.

Record price paid for bible

NEW YORK, April 7 (R). — A Gutenberg Bible, one of the world's rarest books, fetched a record auction price of \$2 million today Christie's auction house.

Syria warns Israel will be punished

AMMAN, April 7 (AP). — The Syrian government, reacting to the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and recent acts of sabotage inside Syrian territory, warned today "the crimes of Israel will not go unpunished." An editorial in the government newspaper said Syria would decide on its own terms when to retaliate but would not be drawn into "dangerous and adventurous actions."

Armenian acquitted of death sentence

ISTANBUL, April 7 (R). — A young Armenian facing a possible death sentence was acquitted in an Istanbul court today of charges of attempting to dismember the Turkish republic by the establishment of an independent Armenian state on its territory. Mr. Kevork Orlanian, 26, born in Libya but a resident as a stateless person in Italy, was arrested in Istanbul last August within 24 hours of driving across the Turkish border from Greece.

Delay in U.S. arms to M.E.

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — The Carter administration will delay submitting its controversial \$4.8 billion Middle East arms package to Congress until after the Panama Canal treaty debate ends in about three weeks, the State Department said today. A leading U.S. senator said yesterday he plans to try to block the Carter administration's package. Senator William Proxmire said he would start moves to veto the proposal when it is submitted to Congress later this month. Under the law Congress then has 30 days to disapprove of the sale. Senator Proxmire said the sale to three adversaries in the Middle East would only increase their appetite for more sophisticated weapons. "I hope that congress will reject the package entirely," he said.

Six blacks jailed in S. Africa

PRETORIA, April 7 (R). — A supreme court judge today gave six blacks jail terms ranging from seven to 18 years on charges of plotting to overthrow the government. But, closing a trial which has lasted one year, Judge A.P. Myburgh rejected demands by the state for the death penalty.

PLO office in New York will remain open, State Dept. says

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AP). — Responding to an Israeli inquiry, the U.S. State Department said Thursday the Palestine Liberation Organisation's information office in New York can remain open.

"Our view has been that as long as it complies with all relevant laws and is staffed by people who entered the United States legally, it can remain in operation," the department said in a brief statement. Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz had questioned allowing the PLO to keep officials in this country following the raid last month along the Tel Aviv-Haifa coast road in which 35 Israelis were killed. The PLO office is connected to the PLO's role as "observers" at the United Nations. As a government, the United States does not recognise the PLO and has had virtually no contact with its officials.

Questions raised on Israel's use of U.S. arms in S. Lebanon

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — The State Department said yesterday that the scale and duration of Israel's military operations in southern Lebanon raised serious questions about the agreement under which it receives American weapons. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance informed Congress yesterday that Israel may have violated the conditions of that agreement, but he did not recommend punitive action. Under a recent provision of the arms export control act, the administration must report promptly to Congress if it believes there is a possible violation of regulations governing overseas arms sales. A 1952 agreement with Israel self-defence and stipulates they internal security purposes, or must not be used for any act of aggression against any other state. Asked about the Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon, a State Department spokesman said today: "We believe that there are serious questions as to the compatibility of the Israeli operations with the U.S.-Israel agreement limitations because of the circumstances, scale and duration of those operations." In Tel Aviv an Israeli spokesman said "without going into its terms, can say we do not consider our use of the weapons was a violation of the contract," he said.

Cuba accuses Owen of "singular arrogance"

HAVANA, April 7 (R). — Cuba today fiercely rejected British Foreign Secretary David Owen's criticism of its involvement in Africa, accusing him of "singular arrogance." In an unusually strong and swift reaction, officials issued a statement attacking Dr. Owen's speech on Wednesday in which he warned of serious consequences if Cuban troops became involved in Rhodesia and Namibia (Southwest Africa), and called on the United Nations to speak out against Soviet and Cuban efforts to suppress Eritrean separatist guerrillas.

The statement accused Dr. Owen of deliberately distorting Cuban policy over Rhodesia and Namibia and added that the problem of Eritrea was a matter for Ethiopia alone. "Dr. Owen seems to forget he is the representative of a colonial power which for centuries was considered the example of the oppression and maltreatment of African peoples," the statement said. Dr. Owen's speech at a banquet caused a diplomatic row, prompting the Ethiopian ambassador to walk out. It was also attacked yesterday by the Soviet news agency Tass.

Carter delays neutron bomb production plans

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — President Carter said today he has decided to put off production of the controversial neutron bomb. Mr. Carter said in a White House statement that production of neutron weapons in the future would be influenced by the degree to which the Soviet Union shows restraint in the arms race and its military buildup in Europe. In Bonn West Germany's conservative opposition strongly attacked President Carter's decision to put off production of the weapon. Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the right-wing Christian Social Union, declared in a newspaper interview: "In knowledge of American history since World War II, this is the first instance of an American president openly and recognisably lying down before the Russian Tsar." The West German government however gave President Carter's decision in favour of neutron weapons approval. Britain and Belgium voiced immediate backing.

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American-Israeli racism in action

To understand the true nature of Israeli racism against the Palestinians, it is instructive to study how this racism spills over and becomes incorporated into the political attitudes of other states, and, simultaneously, how a system of reverse racism is applied to Israel itself. As usual when discussing the global reaches of Zionism's inhumanity, it is to the United States that we turn to find the latest example of immorality tucked into the folds of official thinking.

Two incidents this week illustrate this murky racist attitude that Israel and the United States have towards the Arabs. First, a discussion in the U.S. Congress last week got around to wondering whether the several hundred Libyans studying nuclear physics in the United States were not a potential security threat because they could someday use nuclear weapons in a "terrorist" operation. If the American legislators were discussing American black students studying nuclear physics and similarly applied a blanket conclusion that blacks have to be watched because they could use their knowledge to serve terrorist ends, we suggest that the American Congressmen would be out of a job in as quick a time as it takes to bring a law suit against them for libel. If this isn't racism, what is?

The reverse side of this is the telling testimony of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance before another congressional committee, in which he said "the question of proportionality" has been raised in light of Israel's massive response to the Palestinian guerrilla attack. That's real cute. While the world's most unbridled army-state uses American weapons to occupy the territory of yet another Arab state in an obvious effort to create another permanent buffer zone, all that we get from the American secretary of state is a scratch of the head and evasive questions of "proportionality"? If students of ethics are wondering what reverse-racism looks like, they don't have to look any further than this.

When we reach the point where the American Congress assumes that Libyans will grow up to become nuclear terrorists and the American secretary of state ponders the fine points of the geometry of invasions, one thinks we are moving backwards in humanity's quest to become more intelligent, more compassionate and more reasonable. It's a heavy price the world is asked to pay for Zionism.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR Friday asked what did the Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan mean by saying on his return from a visit to Romania that Israel is waiting for an American initiative on the M.E. crisis?

The newspaper recalls that Mr. Dayan himself had cast doubts on the usefulness of the U.S. role following the breakdown of the Carter-Begin talks in Washington. It adds that Israel knows only too well the American attitude towards the issue: the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 which Mr. Menachem Begin has already rejected.

"So, what does Mr. Dayan expect from the U.S.? Is he waiting for the U.S. to back down from its position?" the newspaper asks. Al Dustour is almost certain that President Carter will not back down for many reasons. Among these, it says, is that the U.S. president is well aware that his position on the problem only meets the minimal Arab demands. Secondly, Mr. Carter himself has declared that his position is sustained by the moral values in which he believes and which he cannot disavow overnight.

In his column "Words" on the front page of AL RAI, Jum'a Hammad expresses skepticism about an early full Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon at a time when, he says, events there are getting more complicated and might entail a wide-spread conflagration.

Mr. Hammad notes that the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is gradually being transformed into a simple peace-keeping force rather than ensuring the speedy pullout of the invading Israeli forces from the south.

At the same time, the columnist adds, Israel is not only playing the game of linking its withdrawal with the retreat of the Palestinian resistance forces from their positions in south Lebanon, but is also pressing for the elimination of the Palestinian presence in all of Lebanon.

While Mr. Hammad does not object to the reassertion of the legitimate Lebanese authority to the south, he stresses that the role of the Palestinians resistance and the Palestinian presence is a valuable trump card which must not be compromised in any way...

WHAT'S GOING ON

Lecture

The Friends of Archaeology and the British Council present a lecture by Prof. Alfred Beeston of Oxford University on "The Culture of Pre-Islamic South Arabia." The lecture takes place at the British Council tonight at 6:30.

To a few, tai kwan tao is a way of life; in Jordan it has acquired many enthusiasts

Text and photos
 By Marianne Pearson

To some, tai kwan tao, the Korean martial art, is a way to keep fit or a sport, to others, a method of self-defence and to a few like Young Han Yu it is a way of life.

Mr. Yu, founder of the Jordan Tai Kwan Tao Academy, is a fifth degree black belt -- the fifth degree entitles him to be called "master instructor." He began training at the age of 13 and expects to complete the final black belt degree, the ninth, when he is 50 years old. There are no young ninth degree black belts.

The belts come in four colours -- beginners wear white -- and represent stages of proficiency. A minimum of three months training is required in the yellow belt grade; a half year in the green and a full year in the red. Each black belt degree requires the length of time of the degree number -- for example, the fifth degree will take at least five years of training.

The belts and degrees represent not only arduous physical training but, somewhat like yoga, a mental and spiritual growth, too. Tai kwan tao means, literally "leg fist morale," the idea being that self-confidence develops with physical strength. From it will come attitudes of modesty and generosity toward weaker people, that is, non tai kwan tao practitioners. The code of behaviour forbids unfair assaults or the unnecessary use of force.

Tai kwan tao is distinctively Korean. Its history goes back to the first century B.C.: mural paintings found in royal tombs of this period show fighters in tai kwan tao-like postures. After World War II it was revitalised and its popularity has grown steadily, first in Korea and then throughout the world.

The Jordan Tai Kwan Tao Academy is part of the World Tai Kwan Tao Federation, which counts ten million students in more than 60 countries. Mr. Yu's first "master" now teaches in Texas -- there are nearly 800 instructors in the United States alone.

In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Egypt both have large training programmes. tai kwan tao is also popular in Lebanon -- Mr. Yu occasionally goes to Beirut to offer seminars and advanced training to the black belts in charge of the programme there. There are two instructors with the Jordanian Armed Forces, but Mr. Yu is the only instructor of civilians in Jordan. He has about 200 trainees at present. Altogether, he estimates that he has trained, since he came to Jordan in 1973, 2,500 Jordanians, for varying lengths of time -- five of them are black belts.

Tai kwan tao can be practiced anywhere, without any special equipment. Classes meet three times a week at various places: sports city gymnasium, American Community School, Zarqa's Latin Convent, Jabal Hussein Secondary School, Jabal Luweibdeh Vocational Centre, and Al Wasifiyah Vocational Centre. In good weather Mr. Yu prefers to hold classes outdoors.

A typical two-hour class session consists of warm-up exercises lasting about a half hour. Then there is a review of basic exercises, practice in kicks and "cat" stances (backward movements), patterned exercises which concentrate the mind and teach balance, one-step fighting (where opponents agree on movements) or free fighting, and occasionally lessons in the history and meaning of tai kwan tao.

Mr. Yu plans to set up a Jordan tai kwan tao association and hold a Jordan tai kwan tao championship meet this year. "It is my duty," he said.



Two sisters practice free-fighting. Their father is also in the class.



Warm-up exercises on the American Community School playground include a stretching exercise for flexibility of the spine.



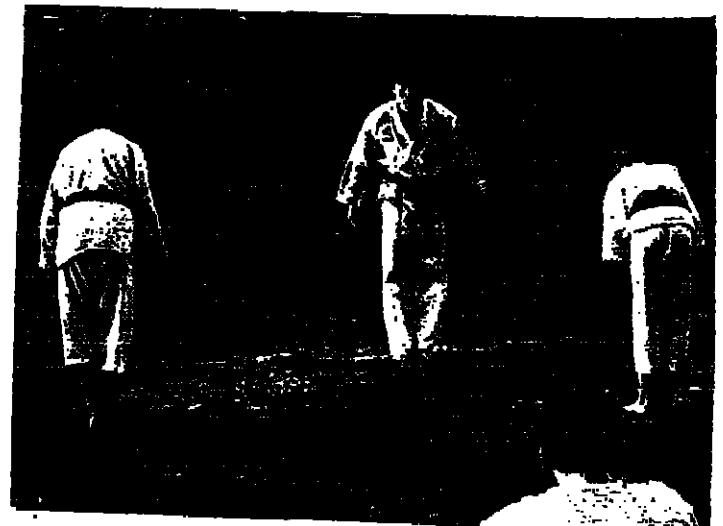
Forward stance punch is a basic exercise.



The class forms two lines to practice one-step fighting.



American Community School students practice high kicks. Mr. Yu is the one with a foot over his head.



Trainees bow to the instructor, then to each other, before practicing free fighting.

مكتبة الأمل

مكتبة الامت الأمل

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1978 **Your Daily HOROSCOPE** from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Except for early in the day when you could get involved in an unnecessary and unfortunate argument, the rest of the day is fine for getting into the specifics of plans of actions. Fine time for entertainment and romance.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't give way to emotionalism or you lose out where it counts the most, particularly where money is concerned. Listen to what a financial expert has to suggest.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you are not too demanding about some special favor early, you can then gain it later easily. Handle some business matter with know-how. Group affairs are fine at this time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get rid of an annoying situation and then confer with an adviser who can help you attain a private aim. Evening can be most happy with a good friend. Avoid extravagances.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Forget that upsetting situation with a friend and have a good time with others. You are able to gain personal aims with speed now. Do what you can to improve appearance.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Steer clear of a bigwig who is not in a good humor. Later you can make big strides where advancement is concerned. Seek out persons who can help you with much support for your aims, projects.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make arrangements now for a trip you are planning. Don't lose your temper with anyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't argue with a close tie as any misunderstandings will clear up later in the day. Keep those promises you have made and gain goodwill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A partner is very difficult in the morning, but later is just the opposite and all goes well. New conditions present themselves that can be fine for you. Be clever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The morning may be slow but later all picks up and you get a good deal accomplished. Try to establish more harmony with co-workers. Avoid one who has devious motives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact good friends early and set up appointments for recreation later in the day. Seek information that will make your creative ideas workable. Take time out for some reading.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try to come to a better understanding with family and have more harmony. Study a new project from every angle before you get into it. Go out with good friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Contact individuals who are your regular allies and set up a more successful plan for the future. Get affairs on a more secure basis.

Batam Island: Monument to one of the most colossal business failures of the century

By David Conrad

BATAM ISLAND (F.T.) — Just 20 kms. southeast of Singapore — almost smack on the equator — lies the sleepy tropical island of Batam. One of the many volcanic outcrops of the Indonesian archipelago, it looks from a distance like any of the other sun-baked, monkey-inhabited isles that dot the South China and Java seas: dense rain forests, silvery beaches and heavy cloud banks clinging to the long sloping hills. On closer inspection, however, Batam Island reveals more mysterious secrets. On the northern shores the land has been flattened, hills sliced back and pillings driven into the turquoise sea. Smoke idles up from burning rubbish.

There are one or two factories, but few of the machines they contain are in operation. Millions of dollars worth of gleaming new plant quietly corrodes in the sultry air.

Ghost town

Miles of steel pipe, pitted beyond repair, is steadily buried under the wispy grass. Huge cranes stand to one side, hawesers swinging in the gentle breeze, like the skeletons of obsolete monsters. Wide new roads have been cut into the ochre dust, but no traffic uses them. It is a ghost town

-- monument to one of the most colossal business failures of modern times, now remembered simply as Pertamina.

Before the Indonesian state-owned oil conglomerate fell in ruins under a barrage of bribery and corruption law suits, Batam was the apple of the government's eye. The brainchild of Ibnu Sutowo, the now-disgraced former head of Pertamina, Batam Island was scheduled to become "the Houston of Asia."

According to preliminary plans, by 1984 it should have become the major supply base for Southeast Asia's oil industry, providing jobs for 40,000 people. The vision was splendid, Batam would rival nearby Singapore and rejuvenate the flagging industrial development of northern Sumatra. The salient features of the development plan included:

1. Oil refinery and power plant. Industrial development was to focus on a 100,000 barrel-per-day oil refinery and an associated 90 megawatt power plant. A port facility to service oil tankers was planned; this would also act as a trans-shipment point for Indonesian international trade.
2. Infrastructure and service requirements. These included sewerage, refuse disposal, and waste treatment facilities. Roads would connect the major industrial and port facilities, and an airport was to be built.

Huge cranes, their hawesers swinging in the gentle breeze, stand amid the dust like the skeletons of obsolete monsters ... it is Batam Island ghost town, monument to one of the most colossal business failures of the century.

it in the 1980s.

3. Free trade zone. According to the Batam Development Authority, this would "create an environment attractive to entrepreneurs, especially foreign investors whose activities can provide a high rate of foreign exchange earnings for the Indonesian economy."

4. Metal fabricating plant. This included facilities to square, bevel, roll and contour steel plates -- later to be expanded for refineries, agricultural produce, mining, canneries, fisheries and pollution control.

5. Offshore steel structures. In the early days of the 1970s it was estimated that the requirement for offshore drilling rigs would rise to around \$25 m. a year.

6. Tourism. Early estimates put the potential hotel guest market at 800,000 by 1975, rising to 1.5 m. by the end of the decade. An 18-hole golf course would also be put in.

7. Agriculture. 1,500 to 2,000 acres were earmarked for vegetable and fruit production, with another 15,000 for

livestock development. What happened to these ambitions? The Batam Development Authority should have spent at least \$182 m. from private investment by now, with \$130 m. from concessional loans from the World Bank of Asian Development Bank and another \$60 m. from Indonesian government funds. But it was not to be.

Down came Pertamina, and down came Ibnu Sutowo. Down too came the vital Asian oil exploration programme, upon which Batam's viability rested. Scores of unused rigs began to stand like eerie sentinels around southeast Asian ports as the programme ground to a virtual halt.

Firms pull out

One by one, the foreign firms which had jumped on the Batam bandwagon began to pull out. The hotels were never built. Cattle imported for the livestock project roamed through the foothills until only a few emaciated beasts remained. The workforces of the

four remaining companies on the island have pared to the bone. For the local people, too, it has been nothing but disappointment. New jobs, which should have translated into a higher standard of living, never materialised and today they sit in their fly-blown shanty-towns squinting across the straits to Singapore which shimmers on the horizon -- a mirage of industrial development they have never known.

The four remaining foreign firms are wary of talking about Batam. One wrong word and they know that their permits may be terminated at any time. As it is, they still have to pay enormous duties on everything they import for their own use.

The largest of the remaining firms is PT McDermott of the U.S. Once their huge yard was used for oil rig construction -- nowadays they are reduced to building barges, servicing cranes, and bickering with the Indonesian authorities about redundancy payments for their laid-off workers. PT Dresser Macgobar (also U.S.) is still there; they produce drilling fluids, but are operating well below their 60,000 tons a year capacity.

PT Papua Vickers (Australia) simply produces replacement pieces for their operations elsewhere, and Bechtel (U.S.) keep a single man on the is-

land. What he does, nobody seems to know.

Desolation

An air desolation hangs over the whole island. As one expatriate executive notes: "Everyone here is on the take. It's rotten with corruption. Even elementary foodstuffs rot at the wharves where they land because the customs officials can't decide how much they want to put in their own pockets." The smallest daily needs thus become ridiculously expensive: Glass beer mugs, for example, are dutiable at 250 per cent.

But is the Batam project really dead, is it just another victim of the Pertamina fiasco? This is hard to answer. From time to time the island is rocked by rumours of massive new investments. The latest involves Kuwait, reported to be considering investing there. "The trouble is," notes another executive, "that these rumours live for a day, then vanish. Nothing actually happens here."

One American businessman reckons that Batam needs another \$500 m. just to get off the ground again, to revive the original dreams. Meanwhile, Batam slides back to where it came from -- gentle, peaceful obscurity.

-- Financial Times News-Features

Faced with semi-stagnation at home American bankers turn increasingly to European markets

By Terry Byland
Of the Financial Times, London

LONDON (F.T.) — The local restaurant owners were well pleased with the news that Printing House Square, the original home of the Times newspaper, had after standing empty for some time, been sold to Continental Illinois, the U.S. banking group. For more months than anyone cared to recall, the building, on a prime site in the City of London, had lain empty, while the cafe owners mourned the absence of the journalists and office workers who had formed their clientele.

The U.S. bank was planning to spend as much on refurbishing the building as it had paid for the freehold, the local entrepreneurs smiled even more broadly.

With much firepower at their belts, American bankers are gunning for more business in London and on the Continent. They bring certain risks with them, and their continued advance could come under fire both from Europe and the United States.

U.S. bankers into Europe has, contrary to many previous expectations, moved on a direct route via London.

The reason is not hard to see. Bankers follow their customers, and the major U.S. business corporations which moved into Europe in the sixties have now

settled into a pattern in which their manufacturing plant may be in West Germany, Holland or France, but their all-important head offices, where dwell the accountants and the finance directors, are often concentrated in London.

The European expansion of

the U.S. industrial giants has provided the spearhead for penetration by the U.S. banks, whose lending to the international money markets and to the private non-bank sector in Europe has grown from strength to strength in the past four years.

At the end of last year, U.S. banks had in total some \$164bn of foreign loans outstanding, with nearly half this figure lent in the group of ten major industrialised countries.

And, in spite of criticism still current inside the United States regarding the status of some of the overseas borrowers, it is likely that loans to Europe will increase.

The latest round of quarterly trading results from the U.S. banks underlines the significance to them of their overseas earnings. After suffering a massive setback in the wake of the 1974-75 industrial recession, the banks are now seeing signs of a strong recovery. But the recovery has been strongest among the regional banks, like Texas or California. The major international bankers, like Citicorp, J.P. Morgan, and Chemical Bank are finding it hard to maintain their growth tracks.

Looking for overseas growth

Faced with this semi-stagnation, the banking majors have been looking increasingly for overseas growth. Among the ten largest banks, some 50 per cent of earnings in 1976 came from international operations. In the first nine months of 1977 earnings at Citicorp, one of the New York leaders, were down by 2 per cent but this was made up of a 43 per cent decline in domestic U.S. earnings, offset by a 15 per cent rise in international earnings.

The U.S. bankers, having first come to London to cater for the needs of their fellow American businesses in need of finance in the old world, were quickly encouraged to expand by the burgeoning of the Eurodollar markets.

The financing of North Sea oil, which largely involved the U.S. international banks, toge-

ther with the more recent boom in U.S. takeovers by European companies, all drew the U.S. bankers deeper into the U.K. and Continental financial markets.

But the most significant factor in the past year has been the interest rate between the loans by U.K. bankers and the inter-bank rates on which the American lenders work. Domestic bank interest rates in the U.K. have been kept relatively high by the need of the home banks, which draw most of their funds from the deposits at their local branches, to contend with the building societies and the host of other competitors for U.K. savings.

Of the 35 American banks now open for business in London, the five biggest are empowered by their respective head offices to lend up to \$150m. to \$200m. With this kind of firepower at their belts, the banks are no longer restricting their loans business to Britain's multi-national giants, but are looking for business throughout the range of U.K. industry.

The American banking presence in London, evidenced yet again recently by the links established between Texas (as well as Arab) banking interests and Hill Samuel, one of Britain's largest and most ambitious merchant bankers, has brought a considerable impetus to the international lending markets.

But there are some doubts now as to the outlook for the longer term. Inside the U.S., doubts regarding the extent of U.S. overseas lending continue to circulate. And in Europe there are now some fears that the U.S. banks have encouraged a general over-expansion of the Eurodollar markets.

Any setback in U.S. banking progress would now have immediate and upsetting effects upon the Continental and U.K. banking systems. It is possible that the continued expansion of the U.S. banks into Europe may come under fire from the host countries as well as from within the U.S. itself.

-- Financial Times News-Features

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THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



Brezhnev blames U.S. indecision for delay in new SALT accord

MOSCOW, April 7 (R). — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev today blamed the delay in reaching a new Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) accord on indecision and inconsistency by the Carter administration. In a speech apparently aimed at bringing home Soviet impatience over the slow SALT negotiations, the Communist Party chief told sailors in the Far East port of Vladivostok that most of the issues which held up agreement had been solved.

"If the final conclusion of this work is nevertheless being delayed, this is evidently for political reasons," he said. "The fact is that the United States government shows indecision, inconsistency and looks back at the circles which were against this agreement from the very beginning and which are doing everything they can to thwart it."

Mr. Brezhnev said: "There are forces east and west of our frontiers that are interested in the arms race, in the heightening of the atmosphere of fear and hostility."

Mr. Brezhnev, who went on to condemn the controversial U.S. neutron bomb -- not covered by SALT -- was repeating recent Soviet complaints over what is seen here as vacillation by the Carter administration.

The Kremlin chief's remarks, delivered on board a Soviet navy cruiser, were seen as setting out the Soviet position for talks in Moscow in two weeks between U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Final agreement has been delayed largely over argument about the conclusion of the highly accurate U.S. Cruise missile in SALT II.

The Brezhnev speech came during the latest stop in the Soviet president's tour of Siberia and the Soviet Far East. He is accompanied on the trip by Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri F. Ustinov.

Mr. Brezhnev's trip has included watching rocket test firings near Novosibirsk and inspecting military installations in the vicinity of the sensitive Soviet-Chinese border, as well as his visit to the Soviet Pacific fleet homeported at Vladivostok.

Later this month, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance is planning to visit Moscow for top-level talks -- and the stalled strategic arms negotiations are expected to be a prime item on the agenda.

Vance will make tour of Africa, Europe, USSR

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will leave next week on an extensive overseas tour taking him to Africa, Europe and the Soviet Union, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The officials stressed that several details of Mr. Vance's itinerary were not yet definite, but said it would begin next Thursday when he would fly to Arusha, Tanzania, to meet the leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front guerrilla organization.

The officials said that from Salisbury, Mr. Vance will fly to London and hoped to attend the opening session of a Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) meeting on April 18.

Mr. Vance will leave London on April 19 for Moscow, where he will hold two days of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He will leave Moscow on April 21 or 22 and was tentatively planning to return to Washington, the officials said.

According to new understanding

U.S. can reopen bases in Turkey once embargo is lifted, says Vance

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said yesterday he had an understanding with Turkey that lifting an embargo on the supply of U.S. arms would allow the U.S. to return to its bases there.

He told a congressional hearing the United States would seek to discuss the reopening of the bases after the embargo was lifted and before any new agreement was signed.

The arms ban was imposed three years ago following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

Mr. Vance made the disclosure as he issued a strong appeal to the House of Representatives International Relations Committee for the lifting of the embargo.

He earlier said that Turkish leaders would put forward constitutional and territorial proposals on the Cyprus dispute with Greece in about 10 days.

Citing statements by Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders he said there was reason to believe the proposals to be

presented to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim would be a significant advance on what was offered at talks in Vienna a year ago.

Stressing that lifting the arms embargo was not linked to progress on the Cyprus dispute Mr. Vance said, however, that it would create a better atmosphere in the region and would make progress on the matter more likely.

No linkage to dispute

But he said the administration was recommending the embargo repeal "without linkage" to the Cyprus dispute.

He acknowledged that such an action would strain relations with Greece but said he did not believe it would lead to a rupture.

Leading pro-Greek members of Congress have announced they will fight repeal of the embargo.

Both Mr. Vance and Defence Secretary Harold Brown

presented a gloomy picture of deteriorating NATO strength on its south-eastern flank as a result of Turkey's ageing military equipment.

Mr. Brown said failure to lift the embargo might cause Turkey to turn away from the United States as arms supplier and in the long run to turn to the Soviet Union for its weapons.

Mr. Vance said both Greece and Turkey were valued allies of the United States and that the proposals to lift the embargo did not represent any shift in U.S. policy over differences between the two Mediterranean countries.

The administration's request for Congress to lift its Turkish Arms embargo is being accompanied by proposals to provide Turkey with a military loan of \$175 million, the same amount as last year, and for an economic assistance loan of \$50 million.

For Greece, the administration is proposing \$140 million in military financing, also the same level as last year.

World News Briefs

CENTO plans defence exercises next week

ANKARA, April 7 (R). — The air forces of Pakistan, and Turkey, together with contingents from Britain and United States, will join in a defence exercise starting next week, the headquarters of the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) announced today. The CENTO-sponsored exercise is part of the pact's training programme. CENTO links three regional powers with Britain. The United States, although not a member, takes part in its work. The CENTO announcement gave no precise dates for the exercise.

U.S. Nazis get go-ahead for Chicago march

CHICAGO, April 7 (R). — American Nazis today got an active go-ahead from a federal appeal court for their plan to march through a Jewish district of Chicago but a local regulation will prevent them holding it on Hitler's birthday. The Nazis wanted to mark the 99th anniversary of the Nazi leader's birth on April 20 with a march through the north Chicago district Skokie. More than half Skokie's 70,000 residents are Jewish and many of them are survivors of Nazi camps. Jewish and left activists have vowed violent confrontation if ever the march takes place.

U.S. grounds trouble-plagued bombers

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AP). — The U.S. air force yesterday grounded its fleet of trouble-plagued F-111 fighter bomb and F-111 bombers for the second time in less than four months. The multi-million dollar warplanes will be grounded pending investigation of why an F-111 escaped capsule-parachute fail to open, killing two crewmen after their plane was struck by lightning as it prepared to land in Lakenheath, England, 1 announcement said.

Voyager 2 develops radio receiver trouble

PASADENA, California, April 7 (AP). — Voyager 2, more than 286 million miles from earth on its way to Jupiter at Saturn, has developed a radio receiver problem that could end its mission, officials said yesterday. Engineers at Jet Propulsion Laboratory learned Wednesday night that the craft's primary radio receiver was malfunctioning, rendering the craft unable to receive commands from earth. A computer on board Voyager 2 was to automatically switch to a backup receiver next week but scientists were afraid that receiver is also malfunctioning, said laboratory spokesman Al Wood. The cause of the malfunction was not known.

Meteorite burns up in Sydney sky

SYDNEY, Australia, April 7 (AP). — A meteorite burned up in the sky north of Sydney today in what one witness described as a "ball of fire as big as the moon." Newspapers and broadcast stations were swamped with calls after the meteorite slammed into the atmosphere. "It was very big and had a bright green flame, it looked like the moon crossing the sky," said a witness one of the hundreds who rushed out to watch the show. "It came over pretty low and travelling very fast." It was not known if any fragments survived the fiery entry and fell to earth.

Philippine elections end without incident

MANILA, April 7 (R). — Polling in the Philippines' first elections under martial law ended without major incident today, despite snuffles near voting booths and a noisy demonstration last night by opposition supporters.

President Marcos warned opposition candidates they could be arrested if there was any violence. He told newsmen, however, that he had ordered security forces to exercise restraint.

The opposition said some of their poll watchers had been arrested, and reported some cases of alleged cheating. Metropolitan Manila has become the centre of the contest because the president's New Society Movement, led by his wife Imelda, faces its stiffest opposition here against a People's Power Group led by detained former Sen. Benigno Aquino.

The elections are for a 200-seat Interim National Assembly which is supposed to pave the way for full parliamentary democracy.

The Philippines has been under martial law since 1972. Most of more than 20 million eligible voters trooped to the polls, usually in bright sunshine. Voting was particularly heavy in the capital.

Voting trends are not likely to be clear from official results until tomorrow but in most of the country, the government is assured of victory since it has the only national list and effective campaign machine.

Early counting in precincts in the heart of Manila showed a mixed response.

Eritrea expects 3-pronged offensive by Ethiopia in bid for full control

ROME, April 7 (R). — Eritrean rebels said today they believe Ethiopia, backed by Russia and Cuba, is about to launch a three-pronged attack in an attempt to regain full control of the disputed province of Eritrea.

But Mr. Ermias Debesai, a spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), told Reuters that Ethiopia was in a "dream" if it believed the attack would succeed. "The masses are with us," he declared.

Last night the U.S. State Department in Washington said Cuba had sent more troops into Eritrea and there was evidence that they had been involved in fighting rebel forces.

The former Italian colony of Eritrea, which was handed to Ethiopia by the United Nations in 1950, is largely under the control of secessionist guerrillas.

Mr. Ermias said today the three attacks -- one from inland, another from the sea and a third from the Ethiopian-

held provincial capital of Asmara -- could come at any time.

Mr. Ermias said Ethiopia had built a naval base in the Dahlak Islands in the Red Sea with the help of Russians and Cubans and was able to land supplies there.

They could attack through the port city of Massawa or intervene inland by dropping troops by parachute and helicopter, Mr. Ermias said.

Only five Eritrean cities are now under Ethiopian control.

Cyprus protests new Turkish attempt to colonise Famagusta

UNITED NATIONS, April 7 (R). — Cyprus last night protested that Turkey was making a new attempt to colonise the New Town of Famagusta, formerly occupied by Greek Cypriots.

About 120 houses and stores had been "seized" and allotted to colonist-settlers from mainland Turkey, Cypriot charge d'Affaires Joseph Stephanides said in a note to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Work was also under way to complete two partly-finished high-rise apartment buildings, he said.

"These actions are indicative of the ruthless determination of the government of Mr. (Bulent) Ecevit to proceed systematically for the complete colonisation of the New Town of Famagusta which has always been vigorously advocated by the Turkish prime minister," he said.

Greek Cypriots fled from Famagusta when Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied the northern part of the island in 1974. Their part of the port -- the New Town -- was sealed off and left empty.

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1976 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q86542
♥ KQ5
♦ A4
♣ 62

WEST ♠ K1097
♥ J1092
♦ Q873
♣ 10

EAST ♠ Void
♥ 8763
♦ 652
♣ 987543

SOUTH ♠ AJ3
♥ A4
♦ KJ109
♣ AKQJ

The bidding:

South West North East
2NT Pass 3♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 6NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

When this hand cropped up in a rubber bridge game, declarer exhibited the technique of a champion to bring home a slam that seemed destined to founder on the shoals of distribution.

North's decision to bid six no trump can only be described as a stroke of divine inspiration. Observe that the more normal contract of six spades would have no play as the cards lie, for declarer cannot avoid losing two trump tricks.

West led his top heart, and declarer was delighted with his dummy. However, he was a pessimist by nature and realized that the only thing that could jeopardize his contract was a 4-0 spade

break. Therefore, he devised a plan that would give him his contract should either defender turn up with all four missing spades.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy and led a low spade. When East showed out, declarer played the ace and then a low spade. West could not afford to win this trick, for that would allow declarer to bring in the whole suit, so he followed with the nine. Dummy's queen won.

Declarer had two spade tricks in the bag, and he could count three heart tricks and four clubs, for a total of nine. Therefore, he needed only three diamond tricks to fulfill his slam, and these could be negotiated without risking his contract. He returned to his hand with the ace of hearts and ran the jack of diamonds. If this won, declarer had three diamond tricks on top. If the jack lost, East, who was known to be out of spades, would have to return another suit, and declarer would still get his three diamond tricks.

Note that the contract would succeed even if East held all the spades. Declarer leads a spade from dummy and finesesses the jack. When West shows out, declarer unblocks the ace of hearts and runs the jack of diamonds, not caring whether the finesse wins or not. He has the ace of diamonds as an entry to dummy to cash the high heart and club entries to his hand to take his minor suit winners.

Western medicine is starting to take traditional healers of Africa more seriously

By Jean-Marc Fleury

KINSHASA (F.T.) — "The Zebola sickness began a long time ago with a woman called Madzika. Because she was very beautiful her friends talked about her a great deal, out of jealousy. Thus, one day, evil spirits heard her name and entered her body. They carried her under the waters of the great river Zaire. Three days later she emerged. Her clothing was dry and in her mouth she carried medications given to her by the spirits. Through her mouth the spirits then explained how these medications were to be used."

This is the legend of how the Zebola rite, one of the great African therapeutic rites, began.

Today, Zebola sickness and treatment still exist. In Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, people from all walks of life consult the Zebola healers, often because of psychological troubles or following a depression. As Ellen Corin, a psychologist participating in a research project on traditional medicine explains, most of the patients consulting Zebola healers have usually been unsuccessfully treated by Western-style doctors or other healers. Most of them are women for whom the process of adaptation to urban life is particularly difficult. The Zebola treatment often succeeds in reconciling them with their environment and in restoring their self-confidence.

Village healers

Far from the city, in the heart of the Zaire countryside, is the village of Mbindo Lala. The village chief and his wife are both healers and the village itself functions as a hospital where 35 to 50 patients live, often with members of their families. Most of them

In the West, medical researchers are trying to re-discover the links between disease and the patient's environment. But down in Mbindo Lala in Zaire, they have always known about it -- and Western medicine is taking the traditional healers of Africa more and more seriously.

suffer from psychological disorders; a few are incurable and live here permanently. Mbindo Lala is a genuine therapeutic community where patients and family help one another and maintain a community spirit. The everyday village life led by the patients eases their return to normal life.

In Zaire, the Zebola rite and village-hospitals are only two forms of traditional medicine. The importance the population attaches to these forms of health care is not new. The interest manifested by the government is, however, recent. At the root of this renewed interest is the realization that a high percentage of the population, unable to obtain modern medical care or drugs, have recourse to traditional healers.

Professor Mamadou Koumare, director of Mali's National Research Institute on Pharmacology and Traditional Medicine, estimates that 90 per cent of the Malian population consults healers. Even those who can afford modern medical care will resort to traditional medicine, or will consult both.

It was also recognised that, in the short term, it would be impossible to provide modern medical care to the entire population, particularly in rural areas. The high cost of training personnel and of equipment is beyond the means of most developing countries. And finally, it appeared that traditional forms of treatment could be effective, at least in

certain cases.

With the help of the International Development Research Centre of Canada, a vast research programme was launched in Zaire, in 1975, with a view to integrating traditional healers in the country's health care programme. During the past two years some 1,250 healers have been interviewed, their specialties and the number of their patients noted.

The researchers from the Department of Traditional Medicine of Zaire's Institute de Recherche Scientifique then drew up complete files for half of these healers. The healer's diagnosis, his therapeutic procedures and his evaluation of the patient's progress were recorded. At the same time the researchers made their own diagnosis and observations on the patient's health. Patient follow-up has furnished them with detailed information about the actual workings of traditional medicine and enabled comparisons to be made with modern medicine.

Therapeutic approach

According to Gilles Bibeau, a researcher participating in the IRS study, some knowledge of botany, chemistry, anatomy, psychology, psychiatry and sociology enter into traditional medicine. All this knowledge is considered as a whole and is applied in a therapeutic practice that is much more all-embracing than that of Western medicine. It does not, of course, ignore the organic and physical aspects of ill-

ness, but the approach stresses the social and psychological factors involved.

At the levels of diagnosis and treatment, African medicine considers the disease to be a complex phenomenon where physical, psychological and social factors are at work. It is believed that a cure can take place only if these aspects of the person are treated simultaneously.

A special session of the African Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation has recommended that each member country implement a dynamic policy aimed at rehabilitating traditional medicine, accompanied by research programmes on healer training, the extent of the healer's influence, and on medicinal plants. It also advocated the analysis of medicinal plants as a starting point for the development of an authentically African pharmaceutical industry.

In Mali and Zaire, the recognition of the role of traditional medicine is not meant to downplay modern medicine. It seeks rather to promote co-operation between Western trained doctors and traditional healers. For Professor Koumare, the two approaches are too difficult to be integrated. Governments, he says, must support two parallel systems that intermix -- if only by the frequent mixing of traditional and modern drugs in the patient's body -- but keep their particularities.

The development of these systems will be watched with interest, not only in Africa, but also in developed countries where medicine is now trying to rediscover the links between disease and the patient's environment, just as it has always been done in Mbindo Lala.

-- Financial Times News-Features

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUIJY

HINKT

MYFAIL

WARROM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAPOR FEINT STOLEN GROUCH

Answer: The "tossing" of a coin's something gamblers enjoy -- "CASINO"

Today's Jumbles: VAPOR FEINT STOLEN GROUCH

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